

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106354

FOR AMB EASUM

FOLLOWING REPEAT NDJAMENA 1610 ACTION STATE ACCRA ABIDJAN CAIRO
DIA KHARTOUM KINSHASA LAGOS LIBREVILLE NIAMEY PARIS TEHRAN
TRIPOLI YAOUNDE MAY 25.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1610

PARIS FOR MURPHY

ABIDJAN FOR RCO AND SZABADOS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CD
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION: SITREP 8

SUMMARY. SECURITY SITUATION DETERIORATES.
DISTURBANCES SPREAD IN SOUTH. FRENCH DEPENDENTS TO BE
EVACUATED FROM BOL. FROLINAT/TODAY CALLED GENERAL STRIKE.
SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT RETURNS TO NDJAMENA. FRENCH
REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE. POSSIBLE ATTACK ON SALAL. PEACE
CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO LEAVE BONGOR, FIANGA, MOUNDOUMN
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AND BOL.

1. THERE HAS BEEN A GENERAL DETERIORATION IN THE
SECURITY SITUATION DURING THE LAST 24 HOURS WITH THE
SPREAD OF ETHNIC DISTURBANCES TO NEW LOCALITIES
IN SOUTHERN CHAD AND INVOLVMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME
OF FOREIGN NATIONALS. WORD WAS RECEIVED LAST NIGHT

BY A USAID CONTRACT EMPLOYEE TRAVELING IN MOUNDOU THAT DISTURBANCES WERE ANTICIPATED IN THE CITY AND IT WAS SUGGESTED SHE SPEND THE NIGHT IN SARH. THE PROMISED DISLIRBANCE BROKE OUT THIS MORNING AND APPARENTLY CONTINUES. THREE FRENCH CIVILIANS, INCLUDING A CATHOLIC NUN, WERE STONED OR MANHANDLED. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A REPORT OF NEW UNREST IN THE TOWN OF MOISSALA, CLOSE TO THE SARA HEARTLAND. THE ROAD BETWEEN NDJAMENA AND BONGOR IS REPORTEDLY CLOSED, BUTH THIS MAY BE MERELY DUE TO THE FACT THAT A HEAVY RAIN TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT.

2. AT NOON TODAY THE FRENCH EMBASSY AUTHORIZED THE WITHDRAWAL OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF FRENCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS AT THE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN BOL. THEY WILL RETURN TO NDJAMENA TOMORROW BY AIR TCHAD CHARTER AIRCRAFT.

3. THE CHARGE TODAY WAS SHOWN A COPY OF A FROLINAT GENERAL COUNCIL MIMEOGRAPHED NOTICE CALLING FOR A GENERAL STRIKE O APRIL 27 AND 28. THE NOTICE ALSO CALLED ON CHADIANS TO TAKE REVENGE ON THE FRENCH FOR KILLING FIVE CHADIAN STUDENTS AT MOUSSORO AND FOR THE DEATH OF 34 INNOCENT VICTIMS AT SALAL. (IT PROBABLY MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE THAT CHADIAN NOMAD GUARDS KILLED THE FIVE STUDENTS OR THAT THE 34 WERE COMBATANTS AT SALAL.)
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4. SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT ABDOUL GASSIM RETURNED TODAY FROM TRIPOLI WITH MEMBERS OF THE LIBYA/ NIGER CEASE-FIRE COMMISSION. FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR OF CABINET KHAMIS TOGOI, HOWEVER, HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE OF SUCCESS FOR THIS MEDIATION EFFORT IN A CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH THE CHARGE. HE OPINED THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR THE MOMENT WAS LIKELY TO BE MILITARY, ALTHOUGH ANY LONG TERM RESULTS WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM BASIC GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES.

5. IT APPEARS THE FRENCH ARE OF THE SAME OPINION REGARDING A SHORT TERM SOLUTION. SEVERAL EYE WITNESSES CONFIRMED TO ME THIS MORNING THAT THEY SAW EIGHT TD TEN TRANSALLS LOADING FRENCH SOLDIERS. MY BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT UP TO 600 FRENCH TROOPS WERE MOVED NORTH THIS MORNING FOR THE ATTACK ON SALAL, WHICH MAY ALREADY HAVE BEGUN. I UNDERSTAND THAT ADDITIONAL FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN NDJAMENA TODAY, ADDING TO THE MANY PLANE LOADS WHICH DISTURBED OUR SLEEP LAST NIGHT.

6. EMBASSY PLANS (SEE ALSO NDJAMENA 1611)

TO BRIEF ALL EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS TOMORROW.
I AM INSTRUCTING FAMILIES TO STAY HOME AND EMPLOYEES
TO REDUCE MOVEMENTS TO THE MINIMUM REQUIRED FOR
ANY BUSINESS. THE CHANCELLERY WILL REMAIN OPEN, BUT
EMPLOYEES WILL BE GIVEN THE OPTION OF REMAINING HOME
FROM WORK IF THEY SO CHOOSE ON APRIL 27 AND 28. THIS
APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO LOCAL EMPLOYEES WHO MIGHT BE
THREATENED PHYSICALLY BY FROLINAT SYMPATHIZERS IN
NATKE FNCTIONS OF THE CITY. PEACE CORPS HAS REMOVED
ITS VOLUNTEER FROM TIKEM AND HAS SENJA STAFF MEMBER
TO BRING BACK THE VOLUNTEERS FROM BONGOR. PLANS ARE
NOW BEING MADE TO WITHDRAW THOSE IN MOUNDOU AND BOLBM
TWO OTHER STAFF MEMBERS LEAVE TOMORROW FOR LERE,
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PALA AND OTHER SOUTHERN CITIES WHERE THERE ARE
VOLUNTEERS WHO MIGHT BE IN ANYWAY ENDANGERED.
WE WILL BE CONTACTING REMAINING VOLUNTEERS THROUGH NUMBER OF MEANS
INCLUDING THE MISSIONARY AND
COTONCHAR RADIO NETWORKS. PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR
AND I PREFER TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION IN BRINGING VOLUNTEERS
TO NDJAMENA WHERE THEY CAN HAVE A FEW DAYS VACATION IN THE GUEST
BEDROOMS OF EMBASSY EMPLOYEES UNTIL THE SITUATION
CLARIFIES.

COMMENT. WHILE THE CSM IS STILL FIRMLY IN
CONTROL IN THE SARA HEARTLAND, IT IS SHAKY ALMOST
EVERYWHERE ELSE. GOC MILITARY CAPABILITIES ARE NIL
IN MY OPINION AND THIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ONLY
BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE. A FRENCH
MILITARY VICTORY AT SALAL CAN DO NO MORE THAN BUY
A LITTLE TIME. WHAT FOLLOWS IS MOOT. WITH A LITTLE
LUCK AND A LOT OF FRENCH PRESSURE, THE GOVERNMENT
MIGHT WELL DISSOLVE THE CSM AND FORM A NEW ENLARGED
NORTH/SOUTH MILITARY-CIVILIAN GOVERNING BODY.
THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, ONLY IF WE ARE
REALLY TALKING ABOUT A TRADITIONAL ETHNIC-RELIGIOUS
REBELLION. IF, WE ARE FACED WITH A REAL REVOLUTIONARY
MOVEMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS IS NO LONGER IN
THE CARDS BECAUSE THE GOUKOUNI FROLINAT FORCES BY
NOW SHOULD BE ABLE TO TASTE VICTORY AND THEIR
IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS WOULD MAKE SUCH AN
ALLIANCE UNPALATABLE.
THE CALL FOR A TWO DAY STRIKE PROVIDES A KEY FACTORY
IN JUDGING BOTH FUTURE INTENTIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR
SUCCESS. HOW MANY PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE FROLINAT
CALL OBVIOUSLY WILL BE A SIGNAL BOTH TO THE GOC AND
FRENCH AS WELL AS TO FROLINAT AND THE POPULACE
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AT LARGE AS TO ITS LOCAL STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY
TEAM ESTIMATES THAT THE STRIKE PROBABLY WILL HAVE ONLY
LIMITED SUCCESS. THE PROXIMITY OF THE TRADITIONAL MAY
ONE LABOR DAY TO THE GENERAL STRIKE PERIOD OFFERS A
PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR A FOLLOW UP WHETHER OF
TERRORISM OR SOME OTHER TYPE. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE
NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT THEREARE A LARGE NUMBER OF
WEAPONS IN THE CITY AND THAT FROLINAT ORGANIZERS ARE
PRESENT IN THE QUARTIERS. GOUKOUNI REPORTEDLY STATED
ON LAST NIGHT'S FROLINAT RADIO BROADCAST THAT IF THERE
HAD BEEN NO CEASE-FIRE INSPECTION BY APRIL 30, THE WHOLE
DEAL WAS OFF. THIS MAKES MAY DAY A NATURAL TO SHOW
WHAT THE MOVEMENT CAN DO.
WE'LL KEEP IN TOUCH. DALSIMER UNQUOTE VANCE

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